GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Inflow of Foreign Tourists
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh;Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the share of each State/UT in the foreign tourist inflow during the last three years and the current year;
(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new policy/programme to attract more foreign tourists in the country;
(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard, State/UT-wise and with specific reference to Rajasthan; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to increase footfall of international tourists by introducing hassle free tourist visa on arrival/stamping at airports and ports and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

****

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.â€ *3 ANSWERED ON 30.11.2015 REGARDING INFLOW OF FOREIGN TOURISTS.
(a): The State/Union Territory (UT) - wise number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) and the percentage share of the States/UTs during 2012, 2013 and 2014 are as below:
<pre>
Sl. No. State/ UT 2012 2013 2014
FTVs % Share FTVs % Share FTVs % Share
1 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 17538 0.10 14742 0.07 17235 0.08
2 Andhra Pradesh 292822 1.60 69552 0.35 66333 0.29
3 Arunachal Pradesh 5135 0.03 10846 0.05 5204 0.02
4 Assam 17543 0.10 17638 0.09 21537 0.10
5 Bihar 1096933 6.01 765835 3.84 829508 3.68
6 Chandigarh 34130 0.19 40124 0.20 28365 0.13
7 Chhattisgarh 4172 0.02 3886 0.02 7777 0.03
8 Dadra & Nagar Haveli 1234 0.01 1582 0.01 1799 0.01
9 Daman & Diu 4607 0.03 4814 0.02 4620 0.02
10 Delhi 2345980 12.85 2301395 11.54 2319046 10.28
11 Goa 450530 2.47 492322 2.47 513592 2.28
12 Gujarat 174150 0.95 198773 1.00 235524 1.04
13 Haryana 233002 1.28 228200 1.14 547367 2.43
14 Himachal Pradesh 500284 2.74 414249 2.08 389699 1.73
15 Jammu & Kashmir 78802 0.43 60845 0.30 86477 0.38
16 Jharkhand 31909 0.17 45995 0.23 154731 0.69
17 Karnataka 595359 3.26 636378 3.19 561870 2.49
18 Kerala 793696 4.35 858143 4.30 923366 4.09
19 Lakshadweep 580 NEG 371 NEG 514 NEG
20 Madhya Pradesh 275930 1.51 280333 1.41 316195 1.40

21 Maharashtra 2651889 14.52 4156343 20.83 4389098 19.45
22 Manipur 749 NEG 1908 0.01 2769 0.01
23 Meghalaya 5313 0.03 6773 0.03 8664 0.04
24 Mizoram 744 NEG 800 NEG 836 NEG
25 Nagaland 2489 0.01 3304 0.02 3679 0.02
26 Odisha 64719 0.35 66675 0.33 71426 0.32
27 Puducherry 52931 0.29 42624 0.21 83291 0.37
28 Punjab 143805 0.79 204074 1.02 255449 1.13
29 Rajasthan 1451370 7.95 1437162 7.20 1525574 6.76
30 Sikkim 26489 0.15 31698 0.16 49175 0.22
31 Tamil Nadu 3561740 19.49 3990490 20.02 4657630 20.62
32 Tripura 7840 0.04 11853 0.06 26688 0.12
33 Telengana NA NA 153966 0.77 75171 0.33
34 Uttar Pradesh 1994495 10.92 2054420 10.30 2909735 12.89

35 Uttarakhand 124555 0.68 97683 0.49 101966 0.45
36 West Bengal 1219610 6.68 1245230 6.24 1375740 6.10
Total 18263074 19951026 22567650
</pre>
NA: Not Applicable
NEG: Negligible

This information is not available for the year 2015.

(b) and (c): Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.
Various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism to attract more foreign tourists in the country are as below:
i. Central Financial Assistance (CFA):
Ministry of Tourism operates various schemes through which Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is provided to States/UTs including Rajasthan for overall development and promotion of tourism.

Recently, Ministry of Tourism has launched following two new schemes for development of tourism in thematic manner:

Swadesh Darshan

Swadesh Darshan was launched for development of theme based tourist circuits in a way that caters to both mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner. Twelve Circuits namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under this Scheme.

National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD):

This new Scheme has been launched for the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites to tap the growth of domestic tourists driven by religious sentiments and to augment tourism infrastructure at places of pilgrimage to facilitate pilgrims/tourists. In the first phase, cities namely Amritsar, Kedarnath, Ajmer, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Dwarka, Amravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Guwahati and Patna have been identified for infrastructure development.

ii. Publicity and Promotion:

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, promotes India as a holistic destination in the international markets. As part of its promotional activities, the MoT releases campaigns in the international markets under the Incredible India brand-line to showcase various tourism destinations those including Rajasthan and products including its cultural heritage. In addition to this, the Ministry of Tourism promotes various tourism destinations those including Rajasthan and products through its websites and publicity and promotional material produced from time to time.

Moreover, a series of promotional activities are being undertaken in tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and promoting tourism to the country. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising road shows, Know India seminars & workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality programme of the Ministry.

The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to Stakeholders and Tourism Departments of States/Union Territories for undertaking promotional activities under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

iii. New Tourism Policy:

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a draft National Tourism Policy 2015 with the aim of positioning India as a "Must Experience" and "Must Revisit" destination for global travellers, whilst encouraging Indians to explore their own country and realise the potential of tourism as a major engine for economic growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation in a sustainable, responsible and inclusive framework, to the betterment of the community. The Ministry has initiated the process of seeking Cabinet Approval for the Policy.

(d): Yes, Madam. The Government of India has introduced the facility of e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) for the citizens of 113 countries namely Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Cayman Island, Chile, China, China- SAR Hongkong, China- SAR Macau, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand,Nicaragua, Niue Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Russia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Turks & Caicos Island, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Introduction of e-Tourist Visa is a Path breaking measure by the Government in easing entry formalities in the country. This facility is now available at 16 airports namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Goa, Varanasi, Gaya, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Tiruchirapalli, Jaipur and Lucknow.

Government of India has also revised the (e-TV) fee in four slabs of 0, US$25, US$48 and US$60 from November 3, 2015. Earlier e-TV application fee was US$60 and bank charge as US$2 which was uniform for all the countries. The revision of Visa fee has been done on the principle of reciprocity. Bank charges have also been reduced from US$2 to 2.5 % of the e-TV fee. During the period January to October, 2015 a total of 2,58,182 e-TV holders visited India indicating the success of the new online process.

****